

## FARM AND FIRESIDE.



[From the Southern Planter and Farmer.]

### General Ransom on Sheep Husbandry.

The advantages of Tidewater Virginia are so many and so valuable in many industries, that it may be considered superfluous to make any suggestions in that direction; but observation and a small experience lead me to write a few lines upon one branch of stock raising, which appears to be entirely neglected in the Tidewater region.

The caption to this article is sufficiently indicative without further illustration of its intent, but the means and methods may and can be fully demonstrated. All farming operations are more or less tedious and full of detail, and the quickest crop or production requires a half year to show results. I purpose giving some data as to expenses and the same relation to products upon sheep husbandry, and will begin, as it were, "ab acu."

The farmer is without sheep and has very little capital. I will begin with \$100 cash and the forage usually found upon a farm of two or three hundred acres. This \$100 will buy thirty ewes, delivered in Richmond, and a little care can have them with lamb, to be dropped in December. The ewes should be upon the farm by the beginning of November, so that they may be fed and go in fine condition by the time the lambs are dropped. This will insure the lambs coming strong and active, and likewise that the ewes shall have a large supply of milk. We must resort to figures and calculations:

30 ewes in Richmond...\$100 00  
Delivering upon farm.....5 00

A sheep will consume three pounds hay and one pint of oats the day, in addition to what grazing they may get. This will be a full allowance. A simple calculation will show that the thirty sheep, in five months, will consume 3,500 pounds of hay and 70 bushels of oats, and these, buy at \$15 the ton and oats 40 cents the bushel, will amount to \$53; salt will cost \$1; here then the actual outlay is \$159; interest six months 7 percent, \$4.53; total, \$164.53

With proper care there will, on the 1st of August, be the thirty ewes and thirty lambs at least three months old. The latter will net in the New York market, even at the depressed prices of to-day, \$180. Here, then, is a clear profit in 6 months of \$15.47 on an outlay of \$164.53, which is over 20 per cent. annually upon the outlay. But that is not the profit. The farmer still has his ewes free of cost and his twenty percent, upon the investment. The ewes ought to be worth two-thirds of what they cost.

Now add this to the \$15.47, and there results a clear profit of \$85.47 upon the outlay of \$164.53, which is over 50 per cent. annually. The above, I trust, will not be borne. I have put it in the form easily comprehended, and I have suggested that method of realizing where there is least risk. A few words more and the reader shall be relieved. I am aware of the difficulties attending sheep raising in our vicinity, but know, too, that there is no exaggeration one way or the other in the statement above. And let us look at another phase of the enterprise. Say the farmer wishes to retain or cannot, during the spring, sell his ewes. The lot of June his ewes would surely yield him a clip of one hundred pounds of wool, which would be worth \$25; and if the ewes were fattened in October and November, they would at certainly bring \$5.00 round as that he had them. Here would be another profit of over one hundred dollars, deducting the keeping, which, upon an ordinary farm, should not be over \$1 per head. Let us ask if any other operation pays as well upon any farm now in Eastern Virginia?

### Breeding Stock on the Farm.

In view of the market for choice stock late thrown open to our farmers by the exportation of cattle and meat to Europe, it behoves them to pay increased attention to the raising of superior animals on the farm. A late report on the American meat, trade by Professor Sheldon of the Cirencester Agricultural College; England, after furnishing a mass of information on the subject, comes to the conclusion that, despite some fluctuations, the dead meat trade will rapidly increase, and that applications for its successful management will be multiplied here and in Europe. The profits of the traffic will be in a great measure, proportionate to the excellence of the product, and the limit to the quantity shipped will be the storage capacity of vessels crossing the Atlantic; for, owing to the falling off in our imports, the number of ships engaged in the transatlantic trade will be too small to afford room for a large export of meat together with other merchandise without advancing the freight to a figure that will prohibit further exportation.

The experience of many thrifty farmers all over the country, proves that a better run of animals is obtained by breeding them on the farm than by purchasing them. More care is bestowed in selecting the likely offspring of tried animals, they will go on fattening more rapidly and uniformly than strangers picked up here and there, for it takes some time before these get acquainted and become content enough to lay on flesh kindly in their new home; and moreover, the tendency of prices for young stock is upwards, and the probability is very strong that are long it will not pay farmers to go into the market for young animals. In any case, it is, as a rule, more profitable to breed the stock one handles than to purchase it.

**COASTARD.**—Coastard, which consists of eggs beaten up and mixed with milk, sweetened and set in a slow oven until browned and serve at once.

**EGG TOAST.**—Beat four eggs; put two tablespoonsfuls of butter into a saucepan and melt slowly; then pour in the eggs and heat constantly; add a little salt and when hot, spread on slices of nicely browned toast and serve at once.

**EGG TURNOVERS.**—Make a paste of sour milk or buttermilk with a little soda and salt, as for biscuits, except that more shortening is necessary. Roll the shortening into the flour and add the soda; then cut off a piece the size of a biscuit and roll out rather thin. Have ready dried apples stoned, sliced, sweetened and spiced to the taste. Place a large spoonful on one half of the rolled paste and bring the other half over it, pinching the edges securely together. Fry in hot lard, turning them frequently to brown evenly. Also if you will make up your soda biscuits for tea instead of the same fashion, and before putting into oven wet the surface with milk, you will find it an agreeable variation from the usual way.

**FLAKY PIE CRUST.**—As some of our friends say that our pie crust cannot be excelled, I will tell you now I make it. It is to be supposed that every housewife knows how to make it; but how little care or hard labor she uses in her crust. Cut the lard or butter into small bits, about the size of a thimble and stir with a little salt into the flour; mix with cold water as quickly as possible, and roll out; then rub in the butter, roll in grated bread-crumb and plunge into boiling fat; fry until of a bright, yellow brown; serve upon a napkin garnished with fried parsley.

**MANTUA MAKING.**—As some of our friends say that our pie crust cannot be excelled, I will tell you now I make it. It is to be supposed that every housewife knows how to make it; but how little care or hard labor she uses in her crust.

This Mantua was very successfully exhibited in the American Museum in New York, where it was provided for the ladies of the children. Its fame has been spreading for 25 years, until now it occupies the habitable globe.

The Mexican Mantua Liniment is a matched remedy for all external ailments of man and beast.

The Mantua Liniment is the quickest cure for all disorders occurring in the body, in the absence of a physician, such as burns, scalds, sprains, cuts, etc., and for rheumatism, and stiffness engendered by exposure. Particularly valuable to horses.

The Mantua Liniment is the best in the world, for it penetrates the muscle to the bone, and a single application is generally sufficient to cure.

Mexican Mantua Liniment is put up in three sizes of bottles, the larger ones being proportionately much the cheapest. Sold everywhere.

**PEA FALLOW.**—In 1871, Dr. T. J. Bailes, New Town, King and Queen county sowed one and a half acres of land in peas, and the succeeding Fall sowed the land in wheat. For six years successively after cutting the wheat, the same land was sowed in peas which were turned under, and the land sowed in wheat.

The crops were not estimated but measured, and the yield was 20 bushels to the acre.

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